

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 – 34 were original in the application. Claims 1 – 34 have been amended in this amendment. Claims 1 – 34 are submitted for examination on the merits.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "activating" should be changed to read "activate" on page 27, line 16.-Appropriate correction was made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1 - 34 were rejected as being anticipated by **Keane** US Patent 6,650,433 81.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner cited Keane as disclosing a print tracking system (print job management system 10, col. 7, lines 45-46) on a computer network (Internet 14), comprising:

(a) a message queue, wherein said message queue is formatted to comprise a

(b) an unbilled print alert (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions) resident on the client computer (a PC 11 and

browser 13, see Fig. 1 A); and

(c) a workstation monitor (website 16 col. 8, lines 11-32, with web server, col. 15, lines 10-18) in communication across the network (Internet 14) with said message-queue and said unbilled print alert, wherein said workstation monitor comprises the capability of transmitting a message (web server processes interactions between the customer at the client and website, col. 15, lines 10-18) to said unbilled print alert if said message queue contains a record pertaining to a print job submitted by the user.

Keane differs from the invention in that **Keane** is an electronic system for managing offset printing jobs and billing customers who order a printing job. In terms of the billing feature **Keane** is not an internal cost tracking system, but is like a conventional internet billing system where the customer fills in a billing information screen with credit card or account information, when the job is ordered. In terms of billing this is an order fulfillment system which is not any different than, for example, buying a book from amazon.com.

As stated at col. 14, lines 14 - 34:

"A Purchase Wizard used in one implementation of the invention is shown in FIGS. 4P-4W. Like the Design Wizard, the Purchase Wizard appears to the customer as a standard Windows Wizard application. The Wizard may be configured to run on the user's browser, or on the web server, depending on the preference and resources of the web server host. The final purchase information is transmitted over a secure server connection. The Wizard includes a Welcome screen (FIG. 4P), a Review screen (FIG. 4Q) that gives the customer a final opportunity to review the design, an Address screen (FIG. 4R) that allows the customer to input a shipping address and select an order quantity, one or more Options screens that offer the customer choices of upgrades, e.g., to remove the advertising text on the reverse side (FIG. 4S), a Delivery screen (FIG. 4T) that allows the customer to select delivery options, e.g., expedited delivery, a screen

that notifies the customer that the order is being submitted to the server (FIG. 4U), a **Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V)**, and a Payment Confirmation screen that asks the customer for final confirmation of the order.”

Keane's Purchase Wizard is what is called a hostage or quarantined method. The customer does not get to initiate and cause print jobs to be performed until he first enters billing information to his credit card or account. **Keane** is not a recoupment system, but is a fulfillment system and for that reason alone fails to disclose the claimed invention as amended in claim 1. The time of printing is temporally conditioned on and occurs after the time of billing satisfaction, contrary to the requirements of claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 1, wherein said unbilled print alert comprises one of an icon and a message that appears on a computer screen associated with the client computer (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W) about printing transactions).

The unbilled print alert does not appear on the screen of **Keane's** system after the job is performed, but before it. Further, claim 2 depends on claim 1 and is allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 1, further comprising a printer monitor (central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45) in communication with the client computer, wherein said printer monitor comprises the capability to monitor the client computer for the

submission of a print job by the user and to create a record pertaining to the print job submitted by the user (see Fields for-monitored information, col. 16, lines 10-37).

Claims 3 – 5 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 4 further comprising a manager's module, wherein said manager's module comprises the capability of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

The ability to charge additional fees or not for enhancements has no logical relationship to the idea of setting a quota or maximum value on the number of jobs that can be performed before satisfaction of billing information is demanded from the client computer. The quota control of claim 6 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 6, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

Keane has no disclosure that forces billing information to be entered when a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 7 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 7, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that-prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V. Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.).

Keane has no disclosure that obscures a display screen of the user when a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of screen display, quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 8 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing a computer network, comprising: (a) a communications medium (internet 14, see Fig. 1A); (b) at least one client computer connected to said communications medium (user's browser would be an example of a client computer, col. 14, lines 17-20); (c) at least one printer connected to said communications medium (printers of Fig. 1 B, col. 8, lines 38-45); (d) a message queue (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37) connected to said communications medium, wherein said message queue is capable of storing at least one record,

and wherein each of said records comprise data pertaining to a print job submitted by a user at one of said client computers (see central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45); and (e) a workstation monitor resident on said client computer (website 16 col. 8, lines 11-32, with web server, col. 15, lines 10-18), wherein said workstation monitor transmits a message to said client computer if said message queue contains a record pertaining to a print job submitted by the user (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W).

In the same manner that claim 1 as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of **Keane**, so too is claim 9. **Keane's** Purchase Wizard is a hostage or quarantined method. The customer does not get to initiate and cause print jobs to be performed until he first enters billing information to his credit card or account. **Keane** is not a recoupment system, but is a fulfillment system and for that reason alone fails to disclose the claimed invention as amended in claim 9. The time of printing is temporally conditioned on and occurs after the time of billing satisfaction, contrary to the requirements of claim 9.

Claim 10 depends on claim 9 and is allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 11, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing a computer network of claim 10 wherein the unbilled print alert comprises one of an icon and a message that appears on a computer screen associated with said client computer (a purchase wizard-configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W) about printing transactions).

In the same manner that claim 2 as amended is distinguished from the

disclosure of **Keane**, so too is claim 11. The unbilled print alert does not appear on the screen of **Keane's** system after the job is performed, but before it.

Further, claim 11 indirectly depends on claim 9 and is allowable therewith.

Claims 12 – 14 depend indirectly on claim 9 is allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 15, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing a computer network of claim 13, further comprising a manager's module resident on one of said client computer and said server, wherein said manager's module comprises the capability of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

The Purchase Wizard of **Keane** has no disclosure relating to the setting a quota or maximum value on the number of jobs that can be performed before satisfaction of billing information is demanded from the client computer. The quota control of claim 15 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 16, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the computer network of claim 15, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print-job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing-Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

Keane has no disclosure that forces billing information to be entered when a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 16 is not disclosed in

Keane.

With respect to claim 17, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the computer network of claim 16, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of obscuring a screen associated with the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V. Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.).

Keane has no disclosure that obscures a display screen of the user when a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of screen display, quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 17 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 18, the Examiner cites **Keane** as disclosing a method of tracking print jobs on a computer network, comprising the steps of (a) detecting a print job sent by a user from a client computer (central database logs information regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 1 – 7); (b) writing a record comprising data pertaining to the print job to a message queue (see Table for a plurality of records regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 10 – 37); (c) creating an unbilled message alert if a record is detected in the message queue for the user (a purchase wizard configure to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions).

In the same manner that claim 1 as amended is distinguished from the

disclosure of **Keane**, so too is claim 18. **Keane's** Purchase Wizard is a hostage or quarantined method. The customer does not get to initiate and cause print jobs to be performed until he first enters billing information to his credit card or account. **Keane** is not a recoupment system, but is a fulfillment system and for that reason alone fails to disclose the claimed invention as amended in claim 18. The time of printing is temporally conditioned on and occurs after the time of billing satisfaction, contrary to the requirements of claim 18.

With respect to claim 19, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the method of claim 18, wherein said creating an unbilled message alert comprises the step of displaying one of an icon and a message on a computer screen associated with the client computer (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions).

In the same manner that claim 2 as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of **Keane**, so too is claim 19. The unbilled print alert does not appear on the screen of **Keane's** system after the job is performed, but before it. Further, claim 19 indirectly depends on claim 18 and is allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 20, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the method of claim 18, further comprising the step of initiating a billing dialogue when the number of records in the message queue exceeds an unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

Keane fails to disclose a quota or maximum number of jobs that can be

performed before a billing dialogue appears, but displays the billing dialogue with each order as it is submitted in the Purchase Wizard. **Keane** does not disclose the quota based system of claim 20.

Claims 21 – 23 depend on claim 20 is allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 24, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the method of claim 23, further comprising the step of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

The ability to charge additional fees or not for enhancements has no logical relationship to the idea of setting a quota or maximum value on the number of jobs that can be performed before satisfaction of billing information is demanded from the client computer. The quota control of claim 24 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 25, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the method of claim 20, wherein said step of initiating a billing dialogue further comprises the step of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

Keane has no disclosure that forces billing information to be entered when

a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 25 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 26, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the method of claim 25, wherein said step of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value further comprises the step of obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V. The Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.

Keane has no disclosure that forces billing information to be entered when a quota or maximum number of jobs to be performed as been exceeded. The combination of quota control and billing satisfaction of claim 26 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 27, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing a print tracking system comprising (a) means for detecting a print activity (central database logs information-regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 1-7); (b) means for billing print activity (purchase wizard, see Fig. 4V); and (c) a message queue (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37) that functionally separates said means for detecting print activity and said means for billing print activity.

In the same manner that claim 1 as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of **Keane**, so too is claim 9. **Keane's** Purchase Wizard is a hostage or quarantined method. The customer does not get to initiate and cause print jobs to be performed until he first enters billing information to his credit card or account. **Keane** is not a recoupment system, but is a fulfillment system and for that reason alone fails to disclose the claimed invention as amended in claim 27. The time of printing is temporally conditioned on and occurs after the time of billing satisfaction, contrary to the requirements of claim 27.

Claims 28 – 30 directly or indirectly depend on claim 27 and are allowable therewith.

With respect to claim 31, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 30, further comprising means for activating said billing dialogue when said message queue contains information extracted from a number of print activities that exceeds a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

Keane fails to disclose a cost tracking system which relates billing in any manner contingent on a quota value. The ability to charge additional fees or not for enhancements has no logical relationship to the idea of setting a quota or maximum value on the number of jobs that can be performed before satisfaction of billing information is demanded from the client computer. The quota control of claim 31 is not disclosed in **Keane**.

With respect to claim 32, the Examiner cited **Keane** as disclosing the print tracking system of claim 31, wherein said billing dialogue prevents the user from continuing until billing information is entered (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

Keane fails to disclose any means from preventing the user from interactively using the client computer to interactively access the tracking system any further until the billing information is provided.

Claims 33 and 34 depend indirectly on claim 27 and are allowable therewith.

Applicant respectfully requests advancement of the claims to allowance.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1960 for an additional costs pertaining to this case.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:-Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on- *December 12, 2005*

[Signature]
Signature

December 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Daniel L. Dawes

Registration No. 27,123

Myers Dawes Andras & Sherman LLP

19900 MacArthur Blvd., 11th Floor

Irvine, CA 92612

(949) 223-9600